

IMPORTANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT
OF THE SOUTH.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL HUNTER.

Vigorous Preparations for Action.

THE IRON-CLADS READY FOR SERVICE.

The Montauk and Two Gunboats on a
Secret Expedition.

By the arrival of the steamship Arago, Capt. Gadsden, yesterday afternoon, from Hilton Head, we have had to Saturday last, at 4 p.m., 69 hours from port to port. Gen. Hunter had safely arrived there and resumed his command. Our voluminous correspondence subjoined will be found replete with interest. Active operations will soon take place, and events of the most cheering character may be expected. Brig.-Gen. Brannan and a portion of his staff returned in the Arago, and will report at Washington forthwith.

We are indebted to Purser Frederick Grangegeen for prompt delivery of correspondence.

**The Return of Major-General Hunter—
The Voyage from New-York—Rough Weather—Arrival at Hilton Head—
Reception of Gen. Hunter—The New Ironsides and Montauk in Port—Gen.
Brennan Ordered to Washington—Acknowledgments—Gen. Hunter to his Staff.**

From our Special Correspondent.

PORT ROYAL, Jan. 19, 1863.

The Department of the South, with its narrow confines along the coast of South Carolina and Florida, and inadequacy of force for offensive enterprises, has so far been the least desirable of the various spheres of active duty of our Generals. An officer, so anxious as Maj.-Gen. Hunter to render useful service to his country, the prospect of a simple return to the thankless task of holding his own in these parts, could have been anything but pleasing. To his great gratification, however, he did not this time take leave of the authorities in Washington without their positive promise, and even partial performance, of such measures as would assure him of the speedy control of the means of realizing long-formed aggressive plans.

The certainty of better opportunities for useful ness had the natural effect of hastening the movements of the General in returning to his post. He arrived, with his staff, from Washington, in New York, on the evening of the 13th inst., and on the morning of the 14th he was already on board of the steamship Arago, and steaming toward his destination.

With the luxuriant comforts of so splendid a ship as the Arago, the voyage from New-York to this port would have been a pleasure trip, had it not been for the uninterrupted rough weather we experienced. A strong blow received off Sandy Hook, and continued to the North Carolina coast, where it turned into a violent gale, from which we never before ventured upon the "briny deep," paid the usual penalty of a first trial in a more than ordinary degree.

Owing to the strong contrary winds we did not make this harbor until late yesterday afternoon. As we steamed toward the dock, the forts on the right and left of the entrance signified the arrival of the General Commanding by the customary salutes. A great crowd had gathered upon the wharf when the ship came alongside, and as soon as she was made fast, a large number of officers of the army and navy, including Brig.-Gen. Terry, and Flag-Capt. Rodgers, came aboard to congratulate Gen. Hunter upon his safe return. The ship was thronged all the evening with officers paying their respects to the General.

Upon entering the harbor the sight of the formidable "New Ironsides" riding at anchor near the Wabash, gladdened us, and was accepted as an auspicious omen. This morning a still more gratifying surprise came to us by the appearance of the first of the Monitors in these waters—the Montauk, in tow of the Rhode Island. The iron-clads, like storm-portending clouds upon a fair sky, were looked upon by the army and navy as unmistakable signs of the impending close of the long period of quietude and the speedy opening of active operations, and imparted new life and hopefulness to all.

Brig.-Gen. Brennan, Acting Commander of the Department, had been relieved at his own request, and ordered to report at Washington. The views he holds upon the treatment of the Slavery question being diametrically opposed to those of the new regime, this change was advisable.

Among the passengers by the Arago was Lieut.-Col. Oliver D. Greene, temporarily detached from the Adjutant-General's Office in Washington, for the inspection of the Gulf and West Departments.

Previous to leaving Washington Gen. Hunter issued an instructive order to his staff, which I copy. It can but prove profitable reading to others in similar positions in the service. It was evidently suggested by conclusions drawn from developments in the Porter trial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 1, 1863.

In view of the probability of an early return to his command, and of the prospect of an active campaign, Maj.-Gen. Hunter desires to remind the officers of his staff of the responsibility resting upon each of them to enter upon his duties prepared, in all respects, to contribute his best efforts to the success of the cause in which he is engaged.

It is believed that the duties especially pertaining to Aide-de-Camp and officers acting in that capacity, as connected with active operations in the field, have not uniformly, received the attention and study which their delicate nature and vital importance imperatively require. The responsibility which these officers necessarily assume cannot be overestimated; the mischief which may result from misapprehension of their duties, or carelessness or error in discharging them is incalculable. These duties are various and arduous, but it is as the vehicles of communication between the Commanding General and his subordinates that the trust reposed in them assumes the greatest importance, and chiefly taxes their fidelity and capacity. Accuracy and promptitude are alike indispensable. The memory must be faithful, the observation keen, the attention unflagging. The most essential plan will constantly depend for success upon their activity, vigilance and intelligence.

The official experience of an Aide-de-Camp should furnish a complete and accurate record of the transactions in which he has been employed, leaving no room for doubt or uncertainty as to facts connected with the carrying out of his instructions. Written memoranda should be made whenever practicable. The minute details of time, and place, and circumstances connected with the transmission of orders in the field should especially be observed, and preserved with scrupulous care. It will often happen that by this means, and by no other, failure can be traced to its true cause, and false conclusions avoided.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In delivering verbal orders the strictest care and attention to the subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by the officer receiving the same.

In the absence of such a record, disasters remain unexplained, investigation is baffled, censure and praise are alike liable to be misapplied.

The officers of Gen. Hunter's staff are therefore enjoined to give this subject their most serious attention, and to omit nothing which care and forethought can supply to insure the success of their future efforts.

In order that no embarrassment may arise from deficiencies of outfit, it is announced that each officer serving in this capacity will be required to possess as part of his equipment, and have constantly in readiness, a reliable watch, a Field Order Book supplied with pencils and envelopes, and a sabretache, or similar receptacle, to be worn upon the person for carrying orders, etc.

Orders in the field will be, so far as practicable, in writing, and will bear upon their face and upon the envelope containing them, the day, hour and minute of their issue. The envelope will be turned over with a memorandum of the day, hour and minute when received, signed by